

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CA-01 /008 W

-----016271 190131Z /62

R 180333Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8639

UNCLAS TAIPEI 05482

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : CDES, TW

SUBJECT : FORMAT AND REVISED PROCEDURES FOR DIRECT  
- RELAY NOTIFICATION OF DEATH TELEGRAMS

REF: (A) STATE 199909 (B) TAIPEI OM OF JULY 26, 1978

1. PERMANENT BURIAL IS NOT TRADITIONAL IN THE  
REPUBLIC OF CHINA; THE REMAINS ARE EXPECTED TO  
DECOMPOSE SOON. THUS COSTS FOR PERMANENT BURIAL  
OF REMAINS IN TAIPEI OR ELSEWHERE ON TAIWAN ARE  
ACTUALLY COMPARABLE TO THOSE FOR EMBALMING AND  
SHIPMENT TO THE US AND SIGNIFICANTLY GREATER  
THAN CREMATION AND SHIPMENT TO THE U.S.  
FURTHERMORE, SINCE US TYPE EMBALMMENT IS NOT  
AVAILABLE, THE NOTIFICATION SHOULD NOT GIVE  
THE IMPRESSION THAT SHIPPED REMAINS WILL BE  
PREPARED FOR VIEWING.

2. EMBASSY THEREFORE PROPOSES THAT DEPARTMENT  
APPROVE FOLLOWING CHANGE OF LANGUAGE IN PARA 4  
OF CASUALTY MESSAGE FORMAT GIVEN REF A FOR USE  
IN TAIPEI:

"SHOULD YOU PREFER TO HAVE THE REMAINS RETURNED  
TO THE U.S. FOR BURIAL, THE COSTS FOR LOCAL  
PREPARATION OF REMAINS AND AIR FREIGHT WILL BE  
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COMPARABLE TO THOSE FOR LOCAL BURIAL. PLEASE  
NOTE THAT THE COSTS FOR CREMATION AND AIR  
SHIPMENT OF THE ASHES WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY LESS  
THAN THOSE FOR LOCAL BURIAL OR LOCAL PREPARATION  
AND RETURN TO THE U.S.

(A) THE TOTAL COST FOR LOCAL PREPARATION AND

AIR SHIPMENT OF THE REMAINS IS APPROXIMATELY  
DOLS 2405 (AIR SHIPMENT 1850 PLUS PREPARATION  
555).

(B) THE COST FOR CREMATION AND AIR SHIPMENT OF  
ASHES IS APPROXIMATELY DLS 400.

WE SHOULD POINT OUT THAT PREPARATION AND SHIPMENT  
OF REMAINS IS CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE  
LAWS OF AND BY USING THE FACILITIES AVAILABLE IN  
THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA. THESE MORTUARY SERVICES FALL  
SHORT OF THOSE AVAILABLE IN THE UNITED STATES.  
FOR EXAMPLE, REMAINS ARE NOT EHTBSTD#AS SUCH  
BUT ARE ONLY INJECTED WITH A DECOMPOSITION RETARDANT  
WHICH INHIBITS DECOMPOSITION. THUS YOU MAY WISH TO  
CONSIDER FURTHER PREPARATION OF THE REMAINS FOLLOWING  
THEIR ARRIVAL IN THE UNITED STATES. IT IS RECOMMENDED  
THAT YOUR LOCAL FUNERAL DIRECTOR DETERMINE THE  
ADVISABILITY OF FURTHER PREPARATION AND OF ANY  
VIEWING THE REMAINS."

3. POST BELIEVES ABOVE OR SIMILAR LANGUAGE WILL  
MORE ACCURATELY REFLECT REALITY HERE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE CONCUR OR OFFER  
ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE. UNGER

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NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978TAIPEI05482  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1688216  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FORMAT AND REVISED PROCEDURES FOR DIRECT - RELAY NOTIFICATION OF DEATH TELEGRAMS  
**TAGS:** CDES, TW  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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